

Public Policy and Environmental Action Team
Minutes
May 13, 2025 6-7 PM
Via Zoom

Facilitator: Charles

Minutes: Sarah

Present: Sarah Braik, Charles Skold, Eleanor Robertd, Dick Farnsworth, Kathleen Coughlin, Barbara Ryland, John Hennessy, Meredith Tipton, Sam Allen, Mary Linneman

1. Territory Acknowledgement:

The Cathedral of St. Luke sits on unceded Wabanaki territory. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from the exploitation and subjugation of those whom our forebears failed to understand and honor.

We also acknowledge the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day, leaving significant carbon footprints and contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect indigenous people worldwide.

Let us acknowledge all this, and take collective responsibility to make good use of our meeting time, and to work towards dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism, to preserve lands and waters for future generations, and to support indigenous sovereignty.

2. Reflection (Sarah)

The glory of the human has become the desolation of the Earth. The desolation of the Earth is becoming the destiny of the human.

Thomas Berry

3. Announcements

- a. Sarah will schedule PPEAT meetings on her own Zoom account so as to avoid conflict with the Finance Committee.
- b. State of the Tribes address has been cancelled this year but the lobby day is still on.

4. Diocesan and legislative updates (John, Dick)

a. Weekly Legislative Report

- i. The Diocese was well represented during anti transgender bills hearings. There were a lot of clergy. A 15 year old transgender boy testified for the first time in his life. He was poised and eloquent and made a difference. The Senate President wanted to meet him and she gave him a special tour.
- ii. All bills need to be reported out next Friday. We'll have to activate grassroots support. The budget process is extraordinarily convoluted this year.

- iii. LD 1474 work session tomorrow: Wabanaki Studies bill
- b. Environmental bills
 - i. [Achieving 100% Clean Electricity by 2040](#) aims to reduce reliance on expensive oil and gas by ensuring homes, businesses, and vehicles are powered with 100% clean, affordable electricity by 2040. [LD 1868](#) sponsored by Senator Mark Lawrence would expand Maine's existing Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 90% by 2040 and add in a new category of clean resources that can compete for the remaining 10% of Maine's energy supply. Cut off for testimony 12 noon May 14.
 - ii. [Make Polluters Pay](#)
 - 1. [LD 1808](#) and [LD 1870](#)
 - 2. [Submit testimony](#)
 - iii. [Energy Fairness Act](#)
 - 1. Public hearing this Thursday
 - c. [Natural Resources Council of Maine Environmental Priorities](#)
 - d. [Wabanaki Alliance's current bill tracker](#)
- 5. Ongoing matters
 - a. [Racial Equity Steering Committee Report](#)
 - i. Dick will call Pious Ali to ask about the status of the report. Dick can fill Sarah in and she will send an email about his findings before our next meeting. We need to decide whether to keep the reference in our flier. There may be other racial equity initiatives that are more salient.
 - a. Food Waste
 - i. Reschedule composting forum (Mary)
 - 1. Palm Sunday did not work out. No date has yet been set.
 - 2. Episcopal 101 will end on the last Sunday in May and on June 1 there will be receptions, confirmations, etc. Probably not good to do in the summer. Mary will talk to Ruth.
 - b. White Christian Nationalism forum (Dick)
 - i. Jill Saxby has directed Dick to Jody Harashida, who is willing to come and do a coffee hour with us on this topic. She is an expert on Christian nationalism with the Maine Council of Churches. We need to set a date. Jody has several resources and Dick has a few good books. We will do it in June and announce a book group for the autumn and identify the book so people have summer reading. We can get a feel for how many people may come. The Amanda Tyler book would be good: [How to End Christian Nationalism](#). Dick will set up a date with Abby, George, Meredith Cough and Jody. Are we open to another time besides Sunday afternoon? Jody preaches on Sunday. Maybe we should do an evening if Sundays are not good for Jody. If we do this in June we will do food waste in the fall.

- c. Looking for new PPEAT Co-Chair to serve this year alongside Charles
 - d. Update on review/update of our [flier](#) (Dick)
 - i. See discussion above, item # 5a
 - e. Walking Together update (Mary)
 - i. Connie Schmalz and Laura Lyons are working with Hope House on training door keepers. They have 10 volunteers and could use 10 more. Linda and Mary attended the Faith in Action event last Saturday at First Parish Church and have some ideas.
 - f. Creation Care Team update (Sarah)
 - i. Solar Faithful is breaking ground. The team needs to have a few questions answered to its satisfaction before publicizing it..
 - g. Green Teams Gathering Saturday June 21 from 10-4 Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment/includes lunch. Dick and Mary are interested in going. Kathy will let Sarah know. PPEAT will pay half and the participants the other half. Sarah will make reservations.
6. New matters
- a. Portland Pride is June 21: Eleanor has meeting minutes. Sarah will talk with Emily Kenniston and Orion so we can publicize at St Luke's.
 - b. Report on Brian McLaren event (Sarah)
 - i. [Sarah's notes](#)
 - c. Maine Conservation Voters lunch and learn: Friday, May 23, 12-1 PM: Addressing Environmental Injustice through Upstream Interventions [REGISTER](#)
 - d. Faiths4ClimateJustice – Sun Day, a national weekend of bold, public actions on September 19-21. In Portland Third Act is organizing this and Sarah will keep in touch with them and let us know what will be happening and now we can be involved.
 - i. two National Launch Calls - and you're invited.
 - ii. Tuesday, May 13, 9am PT/10am MT/11am CT/12pm ET
 - iii. [Sign up for the Tuesday call](#)
 - iv. Thursday, May 15, 5pm PT/6pm MT/7pm CT/8pm ET
 - v. [Sign up for the Thursday Call](#)
7. Episcopal Migration Ministries has decided to end its contract with the US government after it was informed that it was expected to resettle white Afrikaners from South Africa whom the U.S. government has classified as refugees.
8. There is much excitement about the new Pope.
9. Matt Dunlap may run for Congress in District 2.
10. Next meeting: June 10, 2025 6 PM. That is a session day and Charles will probably not be available. Kathy can do the reflection. We welcome other reflections from team members.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Braik